

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 02020 162057Z

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 EB-11 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03

CCO-00 WRD-03 A-01 AID-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /097 W

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R 162029Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2599

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

USCINCSO

USAFPCS LATIN AMERICA RGN ALBROOK AFB CZ/CC

UNCLAS ASUNCION 2020

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ACOM, APER, AV

SUBJECT: SAM-APO SERVICE TO ASUNCION BY BRANIFF AIRLINES

1. US OFFICE OF BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL IN MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 15 HAS INFORMED ASUNCION MANAGER THAT BRANIFF WILL DISCONTINUE ACCEPTANCE OF SAM-APO MAIL EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, FOR CARRIAGE TO ASUNCION (AND LA PAZ.)
2. BRANIFF'S STATED REASON FOR SUCH ACTION IS PRESENT AND ANTICIPATED VOLUME OF COMMERCIAL CARGO, AND COMPARATIVE PROFIT PER POUND OF SUCH CARGO AS COMPARED WITH SAM TRAFFIC.
3. WE FIND IT INDEED IRONIC THAT BECAUSE OF BRANIFF'S BOOMING BUSINESS, DUE IN PART TO US GOVERNMENT PASSENGER AND CARGO TRAFFIC, THIS US FLAG AIR CARRIER HAS MADE SUCH A DECISION AFFECTING USG PERSONNEL ABROAD. THIS EMBASSY ALONE, IN PERIOD JUNE 1973 - MAY 10, 1974, HAS PAID BRANIFF \$94,552 FOR PASSENGER SERVICES PLUS \$3,927 IN FREIGHT.
4. THE BRANIFF MEMORANDUM RECOGNIZES THE "LIMITED"

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PAGE 02 ASUNCI 02020 162057Z

ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE TO AFFECTED EMBASSIES, BUT

NOTED THAT "HOPEFULLY, THE USAF MAC SERVICE CAN MOVE THE TRAFFIC." IN THIS REGARD, USMILGP HERE HAS BEEN INFORMED BY MCGUIRE AIR BASE (IN MESSAGE 102000Z MAY 74) THAT MAC NOW PLANS TO SCHEDULE WEEKLY AQA 497 MISSION FOR SERVICING BOTH ASUNCION AND LA PAZ; ALSO THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF THIS SERVICE SHOULD "REDUCE... RELIANCE ON BIA SCHEDULES FROM NEW YORK (JFK)".

5. WHILE WE ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF USAF MAC PLANNED NEW SUPPORT TO BE PROVIDED THIS ISOLATED POST TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, WE NEVERTHELESS STRONGLY URGE THAT APPROPRIATE US AGENCIES INTERCEDE WITH BRANIFF FOR CONTINUING CARRIAGE OF SAM MAIL.

6. CONTINUED SERVICE BY BRANIFF, COUPLED WITH NEW SERVICE CONTEMPLATED BY MAC, WOULD REDUCE LIKELIHOOD OF DELAYS OR OFF-LOADING, AND ALSO INCREASE FREQUENCY OF DELIVERY. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN SUPPORT OF THE DESIRABILITY OF BRANIFF'S CONTINUING IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT MAC WITH ITS GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGES AND CUTBACKS IN SERVICES, DEPENDING ON THE WORLD SITUATION.

7. GIVEN ASUNCION'S ISOLATION AND NO REPEAT NO ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR COUNTRY TEAM PERSONNEL TO OBTAIN PACKAGE MAIL IN ANY REASONABLE LENGTH OF TIME, WE HOPE DEPT WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE BRANIFF TO COOPERATE AND THUS AVOID A POTENTIAL SERIOUS MORALE PROBLEM.
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